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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/587,542	06/01/2000	Michael G. Luby	091812U2	6523
23696	7590	10/06/2011	EXAMINER	
QUALCOMM INCORPORATED 5775 MOREHOUSE DR. SAN DIEGO, CA 92121				BOUTAH, ALINA A
2443		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			10/06/2011	
			ELECTRONIC	

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte MICHAEL G. LUBY

Appeal 2009-011058
Application 09/587,542
Technology Center 2400

Before, ROBERT E. NAPPI, CARLA M. KRIVAK, and
DAVID M. KOHUT, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

KOHUT, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) of the final rejection of claims 1-12. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b).

We reverse the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

INVENTION

The invention is directed to apparatus and method for managing multicasting network traffic by reducing the send rate over time. *See Spec.* 6-7. Claim 1 is representative of the invention and is reproduced below:

1. In a network supporting packet multicasting from a sender into the network, where hosts join and leave a multicast group by sending join and leave messages, respectively, to an access device in the network, an improvement comprising:

a plurality of layers, wherein a layer is a logical channel that carries packets for the multicast group;

logic for distributing multicast traffic from the sender over the plurality of layers according to a sending rate associated with each of the plurality of layers;

logic for accepting join and leave messages at the access device from the hosts, wherein the join and leave messages are associated with one or more layers of the plurality of layers; and

logic for reducing the sending rate of at least one of the plurality of layers over time independent of receiver feedback.

REFERENCES

Lorenzo Vicisano, et al., *TCP-like Congestion Control for Layered Multicast Data Transfer*, IEEE Infocom '98 (San Francisco, CA, Mar. 29-Apr. 2, 1998) ("Vicisano").

Chiu	US 6,505,253 B1	Jan. 7, 2003 (filed June 18, 1999)
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REJECTION AT ISSUE

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vicisano in view of Chiu. Ans. 4-9.

ISSUE

Appellant argues on pages 8-10 of the Appeal Brief and pages 2-3 of the Reply Brief that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-12 is in error. These arguments present the following issue: Did the Examiner err in finding that Vicisano in view of Chiu discloses reducing the sending rate of layers over time independent of receiver feedback?¹

ANALYSIS

Claim 1 requires the sending rate of at least one of the layers to be reduced independent of receiver feedback. Independent claims 3 and 8 contain similar limitations. Claims 2, 4-7, and 9-12 depend upon claims 1, 3, or 8. The Examiner finds that Chiu discloses a system wherein bits are transmitted for a particular period of time (a window), not transmitted for a period of time, transmitted for a period of time, etc., indicating that the transmission rate is reduced or increased as time passes. Additionally, the Examiner finds that Chiu's system operates in an "insensitive" mode, wherein the transmission rate is adjusted independent of receiver feedback. Thus, the Examiner finds that Chiu reduces the transmission rate over time independent of receiver feedback. Ans. 10. We disagree.

We agree with Appellant that the Examiner is misinterpreting the reference and that Chiu does not disclose reducing the transmission rate when operating in the insensitive mode. Reply Br. 3. While feedback from the receivers is not used in Chiu's insensitive mode (col. 24, ll. 33-35), we do not find any evidence to support the Examiner's conclusion that

¹ Appellant makes additional arguments with respect to claims 1, 3 and 8. App. Br. 9. However, we do not reach these additional issues since this issue is dispositive of the case.

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transmission rates are reduced when the system is operating in this mode, as required by the independent claims. Thus, we cannot sustain the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-12.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner erred in finding that Vicisano in view of Chiu discloses reducing the sending rate of layers over time independent of receiver feedback.

SUMMARY

The Examiner's decision to reject claims 1-12 is reversed.

REVERSED

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